

Resolution of intention to participate in a watershed planning partnership to develop a Balanced Growth Plan for the Big Walnut, Walnut Creek and Upper Scioto Watersheds (Economic Development and Planning)

WHEREAS, Franklin County has learned that the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has received grants to facilitate the development of a balanced growth plan for the watersheds of the Big Walnut, Walnut Creek and Upper Scioto Watersheds; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the these watersheds are located within the boundaries of Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, MORPC will form a Watershed Planning Partnership (WPP) of jurisdictions with planning authority within the watersheds, and the WPP will then work collaboratively to seek broad public input and develop a balanced growth plan for the watersheds based on that input; and

WHEREAS, the balanced growth plan developed with said grant would identify Priority Conservation Areas within the watersheds to protect critically important ecological, recreational, agricultural, heritage, public access, and other areas, the preservation of which would enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, the balanced growth plan would also identify Priority Development Areas within the watersheds, which will be areas in which growth or redevelopment should especially be promoted and through which the economy of the region encompassed by the watersheds will be enhanced; and

WHEREAS, the balanced growth plan would also identify a variety of recommended tools and programs through which Priority Conservation Areas can be protected and enhanced while sustainable development can be driven to Priority Development Areas; and

WHEREAS, while the final balanced growth plan would contain recommendations only, and would not impose any mandatory requirements or limitations on Franklin County, its effectiveness in influencing future growth and development in the watersheds will depend on the active participation of the jurisdictions with planning authority within the watersheds in the process of developing the balanced growth plan, and in attempting to implement those recommendations; and

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WHEREAS, Franklin County desires to participate actively in the development of a balanced growth plan for the watersheds,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1: That Franklin County shall join the Watershed Planning Partnership that will develop a balanced growth plans for the Big Walnut, Walnut Creek and Upper Scioto Watersheds, shall participate actively in the work of the Partnership, and shall make best faith efforts to implement applicable recommendations of the balanced growth plan in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and the wishes of its own citizens.

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C: Economic Development & Planning Department